

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application.

Applicant notes with thanks and appreciation that claims 7 and 8 and 10-14 were found to have allowable subject matter but were objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO97/48517 (*Larsson*) in view of US Patent 6045028 (*Martin*). Accompanying this response is the certified priority document. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Larsson* and *Martin* are not prior art and that claims 1 and 3-6 are patentable.

Claims 2 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Larsson* and *Martin* in further view of US Patent 5484315 (*Juengst*). *Larsson* and *Martin* are not prior art. *Juengst* does not teach or suggest an apparatus for welding with all the limitations of claim 2 or claim 9. Accordingly, these claims are patentable.

CONCLUSION

Having obviated the Examiner's objections, Applicant hereby seeks an early indication of allowance.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF THE TERM

Applicant respectfully requests an extension of the normal term which expired on July 30, 2003, for three months, to January 30, 2004.

Submitted herewith is a check for \$950 to cover the cost of the extension.

Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account Number 04-2219, referencing our Docket Number 11412.

Applicant: Rolf Larsson
Serial Number: 09582003
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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 30, 2004.

Christy Stein
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